S. No.	Centres	States
12.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh
14.	zThirupati	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Gangtok	Sikkim
16.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
17.	Agartala	Tripura
18.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
19.	Gurgaon	Haryana
20.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
21.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
22.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
24.	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
25.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
26.	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
27.	Patna	Bihar
28.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Roorkee	Uttaranchal
30.	Raipur	Chhatisgarh

Employment Opportunities for IT Graduates

1295. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IT graduate who have been provided with employment in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the job market for IT professional is fact deteriorating;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the position of employment vis-a-vis the IT graduates in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) As per the NASSCOM's Human Resource Development (HRD) Survey there were 3,40,000 software professionals employed in the country as on 31st March, 2001, compared to 1,60,000 in 1996-97. This indicates that 1,80,000 software professionals were

provided employment during the last three years showing a growth of over 100%.

(d) Several Policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of Information Technology for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of them arc, setting up new Software Technology Parks (STPs), establishing Media Lab Asia, spread of internet and IT enabled services.

Setting up of Media Labs

1296. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media labs, which would help the country to emerge as an IT super power, were proposed to be established in June, 2001;

(b) if so, how many such labs have been established so far; and

(c) the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Setting up of Media Lab Asia was approved on May 31, 2001 and launched on June 24, 2001 with the signing of an agreement between Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA and Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India. A non-profit organisation is being set up and is expected to be in place August, 2001.

(b) and (c) It is expected that Media Lab Asia will establish a network of projectslabs with the operational office (Headquarters) at Mumbai. The details and exact locations of projects will evolve with the implementation of exploratory period of onc year.